

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 and 23-25 are presented for reconsideration.

In the Office Action, the specification was objected to; claims 1, 3, 5, 7 and 11 were rejected under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by Baumbach (U.S. Patent No. 4,314,302); claims 1-5 and 7-11 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Grawey et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,148,077); claims 6 and 12-14 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Grawey et al in view of applicants' admitted prior art.

By this amendment, the portion of the specification objected to in the Office Action has been corrected to insert "now abandoned", as suggested by the Examiner; claims 1 and 4-12 have been amended to further highlight the invention over the prior art and new claims 23-25, which recite the method in slightly different terms have been added.

It is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is not anticipated nor obvious in view of either Grawey et al or Baumbach for the following reasons. Baumbach discloses a communication circuit line protector, wherein a tubular metal element 27 having an outer skirt 30 slightly flared is deformed to form it into an elliptical shape so that when the voltage arrestor 18 having a circular cross-section is inserted, two opposing gaps, such as 44 and 46, are established at diametrically opposite narrow regions between the skirt 30 and the electrode rim 32. It is respectfully submitted that while the reference teaches providing external pressure on the tubular member 27, it does not teach or suggest that the pressure joins the surface of the component to the body to passivate the surface of the component. The reference is completely silent about any passivation with a plastic coating. Thus, it is submitted that substantial modifications are necessary in Baumbach to teach the method recited in independent claim 1 and dependent claims 2-14.

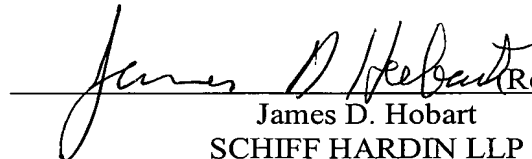
Grawey et al teaches a solid-state motor stack, such as 100 of Fig. 1, on which an elastomer coating 220 is applied and cured, then a layer of grease 222 is applied to the elastomer coating or encapsulation 220 and then a potting material 224 is applied on the grease. The grease is so that there can be relative movement between the potting material 224 and the coating 220. There is no teaching or suggestion in Grawey et al of first molding a body of a plastic material for accommodating and encapsulating the surface of the

component, inserting the component in the body and subsequently joining the surface of the component to the plastic body by applying pressure to the plastic material. For these reasons, it is submitted that claim 1 is clearly not anticipated or obvious in view of Grawey et al. It is submitted that the dependent claims 2-14 add additional features which are not taught by the reference and are allowable for the reasons claim 1 is allowable. It is also submitted that the alleged admitted prior art does not suggest the modification of Grawey to make claim 1 or dependent claims 2-14 obvious.

Newly-submitted claim 23 recites the method in slightly different terms, such as providing a component, molding a plastic material to form a tubular body having a hollow space with an inside surface that is inverse in form to the outer surface of the component, inserting the component into the hollow space of the tubular body, and then applying pressure to the body to join the inside surface of the hollow space to the outer surface of the component to provide the plastic coating. These features are neither suggested nor disclosed by either of the references relied on by the Examiner. Thus, claim 23 is clearly patentably distinct over the prior art and is allowable. Dependent claim 24 adds additional features that the step of applying pressure presses a device on the outside surface of the body to create the pressure for joining the inside surface to the hollow space of the outer surface of the component, which is a feature not taught or suggested by any of the claims in the reference. Finally, dependent claim 25, which is dependent on claim 24, further highlights that the molding includes providing a plastic material including a cross-linking substance and partially cross-linking the body during the molding and while pressing the device during applying pressure, recommencing the cross-linking of the body, which are steps neither suggested nor disclosed by the references. For these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claims 23-25 are clearly patentable over the prior art and are allowable along with claims 1-14.

In view of the amendments and explanations contained hereinabove, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for immediate formal allowance and further reconsideration to that end is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

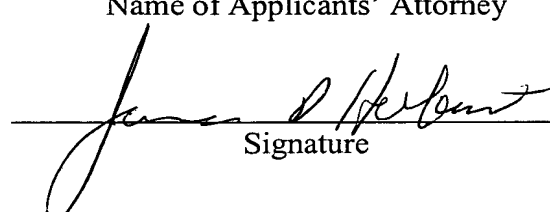


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Signature

June 14, 2004

Date